

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. In the present amendment, claims 3-5, 16, 17 and 20 are canceled and claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 18, 19 and 21 are amended, thereby leaving claims 2, 8-11, 13-15 and 22 unchanged. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-7, 20 and 21 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and that claims 13-15 and 17 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite all limitations of claims 4 and 5, and the Applicant has therefore effectively rewritten claim 5 in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 6 has been amended to recite all limitations of claim 1, and the Applicant has therefore rewritten claim 6 in independent form. Accordingly, claim 6 is allowable.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite all limitations of claim 1, and the Applicant has therefore rewritten claim 7 in independent form. Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable.

Claim 12 has been amended to recite all limitations of claims 16 and 17, and the Applicant has therefore effectively rewritten claim 17 in independent form. Accordingly, claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite all limitations of claim 20, and the Applicant has therefore effectively rewritten claim 20 in independent form. Accordingly, claim 19 is allowable.

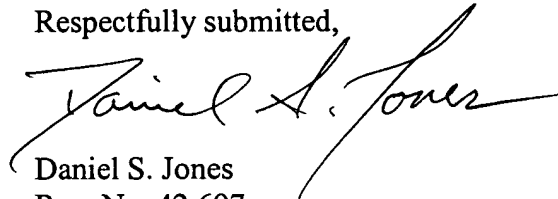
The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has canceled claim 3 and amended claim 12 as suggested by the Examiner, therefore effectively overcoming the rejections. Accordingly, claims 12-15 and 18 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 6-15, 18, 19, 21 and 22 are allowable.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,



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